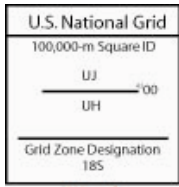


Reading US National Grid (USNG) Coordinates: “Read right then up”

The example below locates an EMS station in Monroe County, FL at: **17R NH 55905 74965**



Sample

A USNG value has three components.

Some maps may give this leading information in a grid reference box

Grid Zone Designation (GZD): 17R
6 x 8 degree longitude zone/ latitude band:
100,000-m Square Identification: NH

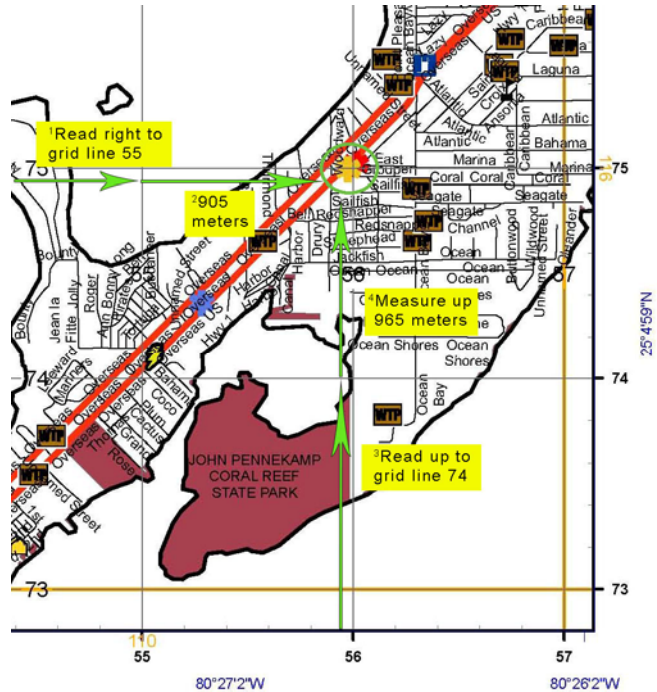
17R NH 55905 74965

“Read right then up”

Grid lines are identified by principle digits

Reading USNG Grid Coordinates:

- Coordinates are always given as an even number of digits (ie. 55905 74965)
- Separate coordinates in half (55905 74965) into the easting and northing components.
- ¹Read right to grid line 55. ²Then measure right another 905-m (Think 55.90)
- ³Read up to grid line 74. ⁴Then measure up another 965 –m (Think 74.96)



Examples:	Grid:
Substation	54980 74073
EMS	55342 74441
Fuel Site	5625 9754
John Pennekamp State Park	5551 9735

Ignore the small UTM superscript numbers that are provided for reference purposes. UTM numerical values are best suited for determining direction and distance as in surveying. USNG alpha-numeric values are best suited for describing particular locations because they can be given as only grid coordinates and with only the precision required for a particular task.

Users determine the required precision. These values represent a point position (southwest corner) for an area of refinement.

- Four digits: 55 74 Locating a point within a 1,000-m square
- Six digits: 559 749 Locating a point within a 100-m square (football field size).
- Eight digits: 5590 7496 Locating a point within a 10-m square (modest size home)
- Ten digits: 55905 74965 Locating a point within a 1-m square (parking space size).

A modest size home can be found or identified in a local area with only an 8-digit grid.

Full USNG:	World wide unique
17R NH 55905 74965	World wide unique
Without Grid Zone Designation (GZD): NH 55905 74965	Regional areas
Without GZD and 100,000-m Square ID: 55905 74965	Local areas

Point of Interest	Street Address	USNG Grid: 18S UJ	Telephone: (202)
Subway Sandwich & Salads	2030 M St., NW	2256 0826	223-2587
Subway Sandwich & Salads	430 8th St., SE	2698 0567	547-8200
Subway Sandwich & Salads	3504 12th St., NE	2740 1120	526-5999
Subway Sandwich & Salads	1500 Benning Rd, NE	2815 0757	388-0421

This illustrates how USNG coordinates can be used in a phone directory or advertisement like a universal map index value. Unlike classic atlas grids (i.e. B3), these can be used with any paper map using the national grid and in web map portals such as the Washington, DC GIS (<http://dcgis.dc.gov>) or The National Map. (<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/viewer.htm>) They can also be used in consumer GPS receivers to directly guide you to the location. This is especially beneficial at night, in heavy traffic, or after major disasters when street signs are missing.